



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

October 14, 2005

News Release

ICE AND ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO DEPORT CRIMINAL ALIENS

PHOENIX, AZ — Employees from the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) completed federal immigration enforcement training from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and are ready to begin assisting in the deportation of criminal aliens housed in ADC facilities.

On October 13, ADC Director Dora Schriro, ICE Deputy Assistant Director for Investigations Paul Kilcoyne and ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Roberto G. Medina addressed the group and presented graduation certificates to the 12 ADC employees during a ceremony in the courtyard of ADC headquarters at 1601 W. Jefferson.

“I applaud Director Schriro’s leadership and initiative to help fill gaps created by the Federal Government in deporting criminal aliens from our state,” Governor Janet Napolitano said. “This is the first of many essential steps we are taking to keep Arizona safe and secure.”

“In a matter of weeks since Governor Napolitano convened the summit on Immigration this past July, the department and ICE have completed training that will yield welcome relief for Arizona citizens and taxpayers,” said Director Schriro. “There are 4,197 undocumented aliens in Arizona prisons today, each costing the state \$53.63 per day including 489 deportable foreign national inmates who have served nearly 90,000 more days to date than is required to be deported per Arizona statute. Our newly graduated staff is critical to ensure their speedy processing.”

Under a memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed by Director Schriro, DHS officials in Washington, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, ICE trained 12 ADC employees who will carry out certain duties traditionally handled by federal immigration officers. The ADC officers will perform these new duties at the department’s primary intake facilities, ASPC Phoenix where newly admitted male inmates are processed and ASPC-Perryville where female offenders are admitted. Their new responsibilities include interviewing foreign national inmates to determine whether there is probable cause for an immigration violation; completing the processing for criminal aliens including fingerprinting; preparing documentation to place aliens in deportation

proceedings concurrent with their prison term; and preparing documentation to deport aliens following their terms.

The ADC staff members completed an intensive three-and-a-half-week training program which began on September 20 and included a range of topics related to immigration enforcement including immigration law, civil rights, and intercultural relations. ICE special agents will supervise the ADC personnel assigned to prepare the immigration paperwork that paves the way for the criminal aliens' removal from the United States.

"ICE and the Department of Homeland Security are proud to be a part of a program that will likely make Arizona a model for other states nationwide," said Roberto G. Medina, Special Agent-in-Charge for ICE in Arizona. "By working in partnership, ICE and the Arizona Department of Corrections will be able to reduce criminal alien population in the State's correctional facilities and increase the number of foreign born violent offenders who are being successfully deported from the United States."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.